

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 104073 TOSEC 110387

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GEORGETOWN 0827 ACTION SECSTATE INFO BRASILIA
CARACAS KINGSTON PORT OF SPAIN 28 APR

QUOTE

S E C R E T GEORGETOWN 0827

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4 (IMPDET)

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, GY, CU, VE

SUBJECT: REPORTS OF CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IN GUYANA BECOMING
MORE CREDIBLE

REF: A) GEORGETOWN 726, B) GEORGETOWN 694,
C) GEORGETOWN 681

1. SUMMARY: WE HAVE RECEIVED MORE REPORTS, ONE OF WHICH IS
PARTICULARLY DETAILED, OF CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS OR TROOPS IN
GUYANA. ONE REPORT IMPLIES EAST EUROPEAN MILITARY ADVISERS ALSO
PRESENT AT GDF BORDER INSTALLATIONS. WHILE WE ARE STILL UNCER-
TAIN OF SOURCES' RELIABILITY AND WHILE GOG HAS PUBLICLY DENIED CUBAN
MILITARY PRESENCE, GOG SUBTERFUGE ON THE NOW OFFICIALLY (BUT NOT
YET PUBLICLY) ADMITTED DESPATCH OF LARGE NUMBERS OF GDF TROOPS TO

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CUBA FOR TRAINING MAKES US BELIEVE THESE REPORTS MAY BE TRUE. WHEN

I QUERIED FONMIN WILLS ABOUT REPORTS APRIL 28, HE SAID
OFFICIAL ANSWER IS NO CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS HERE, BUT HE REALLY
DID NOT KNOW. END SUMMARY.

2. GUYANESE PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER WHO IS GOOD OBSERVER BUT OF
UNTESTED RELIABILITY AS SOURCE TOLD ME HE WAS REQUESTED BY GDF
TO GO ON MILITARY HELICOPTER FLIGHT TO VENEZUELAN OR BORDER AREA
ON 23 APRIL TO TAKE TELEPHOTO SHOTS USING A LENS WITH WHICH GDF
PHOTOGRAPHER HAD EARLIER BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. SOURCE SAID HE WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY TWO NON-GUYANESE DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, ONE
OF WHOM WAS OF MIXED CREOLE APPEARANCE AND SPOKE BOTH SPANISH AND
ACCENTED ENGLISH, AND ANOTHER OF WHOM WAS CAUCASIAN AND SPOKE
UNIDENTIFIED NON-ROMANCE LANGUAGE WHICH WAS NOT GERMAN (SOURCE
HAS STUDIED IN GERMANY). HELICOPTER ARRIVED AT ARMY CAMP CONTAINING
ESTIMATED 200 GDF PERSONNEL BY VENEZUELAN BORDER IN WHAT SOURCE
BELIEVED WAS BARIMA OR AMAKURA RIVER AREA (SINCE HELICOPTER FLEW
OVER MATTHEWS RIDGE IN TRANSIT FROM GEORGETOWN). SOURCE INDICATED
GDF ENCAMPMENT WAS ON HIGHER GROUND ACROSS A SMALL STREAM FROM GUYANA
POLICE OUTPOST AND ACROSS BOUNDARY RIVER FROM VENEZUELA. COMMENT:
AMAKURA RIVER SERVES AS BOUNDARY IN PART OF THIS AREA.
END COMMENT. HELICOPTER WAS MET BY GDF PERSONNEL AND 7 OR 8
NON-GUYANESE INDIVIDUALS DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES BUT WITH WHAT
SOURCE DESCRIBED AS MILITARY SHOES AND BELTS WHO SPOKE FLUENT
SPANISH WITH HIS TRAVELING COMPANION. ONE CONVERSED WITH SECOND
UNIDENTIFIED HELICOPTER PASSENGER IN LATTER'S TONGUE. GROUP WAS
TRANSPORTED BY JEEP TO POLICE OUTPOST WHERE SOURCE AT GDF REQUEST
TOOK TELEPHOTO SHOTS OF VENEZUELAN BUILDINGS AND LARGE DISH-TYPE
ANTENNA ACROSS BORDER. FOLLOWING PHOTOS, SPANISH SPEAKERS AND
GDF PERSONNEL CONFERRED INSIDE TENT FOR ABOUT 1 HOUR 15 MINUTES,
SOURCE ASSUMED AT LEAST PARTLY ABOUT NATURE OF VENEZUELAN
INSTALLATIONS PHOTOGRAPHED, THOUGH HE REMAINED OUTSIDE. LATER IN
DAY, SOURCE ACCOMPANIED THE TWO FOREIGN PASSENGERS AND GDF ESCORT IN
HELICOPTER WHICH FLEW TO SMALLER GDF CAMP ON KAKO RIVER WHERE
HELICOPTER REFUELED, THEN TO SMALL CAMP AT KATO IN NORTHERN RUPUNUNI
NEAR BRAZILIAN BORDER, AND THEN TO AIRSTRIP NEAR BASE OF LARGE
FLAT-TOPPED MOUNTAIN WHICH SOURCE BELIEVES WAS PROBABLY MT.
RORAIMA. PART CLIMBED NE HOUR TOWARD MOUNTAIN TO ANOTHER GDF CAMP
CONTAINING OVER 100 SOLDIERS, WHERE HIS FLIGHT COMPANIONS PARTICI-
PATED IN BRIEFING WITH MAPS AROUND TABLE. PHOTOGRAPHY ACROSS BORDER
HERE NULLIFIED BY LOW CLOUDS. SOURCE DID NOT NOTE NON-GUYANESE
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OTHER THAN HIS FLIGHT COMPANIONS AT THESE LATTER CAMPS. AT LAST
CAMP, SOURCE NOTED SEVERAL GUNS MOUNTED ON LARGE TRIPODS WITH BORES
OF ONE INCH OR MORE IN DIAMETER, LARGE CURVED MAGAZINES ON TOP
OF BARREL, AND ATTACHES EAT FOR GUNNER. SOURCE SAID HE HAD NOT
PREVIOUSLY NOTED SUCH EQUIPMENT AT GDF INSTALLATIONS.

3. EX-GDF ENLISTED MAN CITED AS SOURCE PARA 1, REF A, WAS FLOWN ON
WORK ASSIGNMENT ABOUT 14 APRIL TO

GDF CAMP AT ETERINGBANG ON CUYANI RIVER OPPOSITE ANKOKO ISLAND BY VENEZUELAN BORDER. SOURCE CLAIMED THERE WERE ABOUT 25 SPANISH-SPEAKING SOLDIERS AT CAMP IN GDF UNIFORMS, SOME OF WHOM WERE BEARDED AND ALL OF WHOM WERE EITHER BLACK OR OF MIXED RACIAL ORIGIN. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, GDF SOLDIER THERE SAID THAT THESE SPANISH-SPEAKING INDIVIDUALS WERE CUBAN.

4. EAST INDIAN ETHNIC ORIGIN BUSINESS SOURCE CITED PARA 2, REF C, ON APRIL TOLD DCM THAT HE VISITED NATIONAL SERVICE CAMP AT PAPAYA CREEK IN NORTH WEST DISTRICT 15 APRIL ON BUSINESS CONCERNING PURCHASE OF CAMP'S AGRICULTURAL OUTPUT. SOURCE SAID THERE WERE 10 CUBAN CIVILIANS LIVING AT THE CAMP WHO WERE SAID BY NS STAFF MEMBER TO BE TEACHERS OF SPANISH. SOURCE SAID ONE STAFF MEMBER ADDED LATER THAT CUBANS ALSO TAUGHT PARA-MILITARY TACTICS. SOURCE DID NOT CONVERSE WITH ANY OF ALLEGED CUBANS, BUT NATIONAL SERVICE STAFF MEMBER POINTED OUT SEVERAL BLACK AND ONE WHITE INDIVIDUAL AS BEING CUBANS. NS STAFF MEMBER WITH WHOM HE TALKED SAID 6 OF THE CUBANS WERE BLACK AND 4 WERE WHITE. IN RESPONSE TO SOURCE'S QUESTION, NS STAFF MEMBER ALLEGEDLY STATED CUBANS HAD BEEN THERE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. COMMENT: ONVISIT TO PAPAYA CREEK CAMP 15 MARCH REPORTED GEORGETOWN 559, DCM WAS REASONABLY CONFIDENT THERE WERE NO CUBANS THERE AT THAT TIME, BUT LENGTH OF STAY ALLEGED BY INFORMANT COULD INDICATE THEIR ARRIVAL SUBSEQUENT TO DCM'S VISIT, IF STORY IS TRUE.

5. ON APRIL 28 DURING MEETING WITH FONMIN WILLS ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, I TOLD HIM THAT WITHOUT ANY IMPROPER SNOOPING OR SOLICITING, WER WERE GETTING REPORTS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES, SOME WITH CONSIDERABLE PLAUSIBLE DETAIL, OF CUBAN MILITARY ADVISORS AT GDF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN BOTH GEORGETOWN AREA AND BORDER REGIONS. WILLS RESONDED THAT THE OFFICIAL ANSWER WAS THAT THERE WERE NO CUBAN MILITARY ADVISORS IN GUYANA, BUT TO BE HONEST, HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER THERE WERE OR NOT. HE THEN IN MY PRESENCE UNSUCCESSFULLY
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ATTEMPTED TO CALL GDF COMMANDER BRIGADIER CLARENCE PRICE, SAYING HE WOULD ASK PRICE POINT BLANK. I TOLD WILLS IF HE WANTED TO RELAX MY PERSONAL QUERY AND THE FACT THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED SUCH REPORTS TO BURNHAM OR ANYONE ELSE, I HAD NO OBJECTION. WILLS SAID HE WOULD TRY TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION AND GET BACK TO ME BEFORE HE LEAVES FOR NAIROBI UNCTAD MEETING APRIL 30. TO HIS QUERY, I SAID REASON WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT CUBAN MILITARY ADVISERS IS LONG HISTORY OF CASTRO'S FISHING IN TROUBLED WATERS VIA MILITARY ADVENTURES IN LATIN AMERICA, NEAR EAST, AFRICA, ETC.

6. COMMENT: WE STILL HAVE NO CONCRETE PROOF OF RESIDENT MILITARY ADVISERS OR TROOPS IN GUYANA, AND GOG HAS PUBLICLY DENIED THEIR PRESENCE. WE ALSO REALIZE THAT SOME OF OUR SOURCES MAY BE GOG PROVOCATEURS OR OPPONENTS OF GOG WHO WANT US TO BELIEVE THAT CUBAN TROOPS OR MILITARY ADVISERS ARE PRESENT. HOWEVER, NUMEROUS

SOURCES HAVE NOW REPORTED SUCH TROOPS OR ADVISERS, EVEN FOREIGN MINISTER IS NOT SURE, AND WE ARE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE THERE MAY BE SOME FIRE BEHIND ALL THE SMOKE. THE LATEST REPORTED CITED IN PARA 1 IS PARTICULARLY DETAILED, FROM A SOURCE WHO HAS NO CONNECTION OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE TO LOCAL POLITICAL GROUPS.

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